



Harlow Fullwood

January 26, 1941 - January 13, 2007

Former Baltimore City Police Officer, KFC Entrepreneur, and Philanthropist Harlow Fullwood, Jr. died of diabetes complications on Saturday, January 13, 2007, at Woodbridge Valley Manor Care in Catonsville, Maryland. He was 65. His death occurred on the same day of the Fullwood Foundation's 19th Annual Benefit & Recognition Breakfast, one of the region's most popular charity events, which attracted a gathering of more than 2,000. Mr. Fullwood was born on January 26, 1941 in Weaverville, North Carolina, which is 8 miles from Asheville, North Carolina where he grew-up. His mother, Louise Hamilton-Fullwood, was a domestic worker and his father, Harlow Fullwood, Sr., was a porter for Trailways Bus Company. Mr. Fullwood was raised primarily by his grandmother, Annie Conley Fullwood-Floyd, and they resided in Asheville where he excelled academically and athletically; he graduated from Stephens-Lee High School in 1959, ranking 10th in his class of 178 and won a full football scholarship to Virginia Union University. The National Football League (NFL) Baltimore Colts and the Buffalo Bills drafted Mr. Fullwood in 1963; he enjoyed a brief NFL career with the Colts. His next professional endeavor involved joining the Baltimore Police Department where he achieved 2nd Place Ranking at the Baltimore Police Academy. He served as an officer for 23 years during which he became the most decorated law enforcement officer in the State of Maryland in terms of community service. Mr. Fullwood was honored by the Baltimore Sun as "1979 Policeman of the Year" and received the Police Departments "Distinguished Service Award." As

a determined scholar, Mr. Fullwood graduated with highest honors in 1974 from Baltimore City Community College with an Associate degree in Urban Sociology, and he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Virginia Union University (VUU) where he was also a College All-American football player; he was inducted in 1990 into the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Hall of Fame. The range of his higher education honors includes a Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Virginia Union University; an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree from the Tennessee School of Religion; an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree from Coppin State University; and, an Honorary Doctorate Degree from McDaniel College. In 2003, Morgan State University named Fullwood an Honorary Alumnus. After a successful career as a decorated law enforcement officer, and recognition as one of the nation's highest achieving police recruiters, Mr. Fullwood quit his job with the Baltimore City Police Department, when he was just 1 ½ years from full retirement. He and his wife, Elnora, decided to pursue becoming KFC franchise holders. In 1984, the Fullwoods were inspired to apply for a KFC franchise by Reverend Jesse L. Jackson's Rainbow – Operation Push Coalition, the progressive organization that fought for social change and whose mission was to promote economic opportunity and justice. The Fullwoods understood the mission of Operation Push to help African-Americans become entrepreneurs; create jobs and economic empowerment for others; and to provide educational access for others. With the help from Operation PUSH, they submitted an extensive application for a KFC franchise ownership. The result was successful, and they advanced to own and operate six of the most successful KFC franchises in the United States. As President of Fullwood Foods, Inc., Harlow Fullwood, Jr., established himself as one of the most successful KFC franchise owners in the United States. He began by finishing 2nd in ranking at the KFC National Training Center at Louisville, Kentucky. In 1988, Mr. Fullwood received the KFC State Sales Award, thereby becoming the first African-American franchise holder in the history of KFC-USA to lead a whole state (Maryland) in gross sales. The Baltimore Sun

honored Fullwood for several years as one of the 50 leading Black business entrepreneurs in the State of Maryland. Never content as a successful entrepreneur, Fullwood endeavored to form a charitable foundation. In 1984, he established the Fullwood Foundation, a non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation and a Registered Maryland Charitable Organization. The Foundation raises funds to support numerous educational initiatives designed to provide youth with college scholarships. With its familiar theme, "Caring and Sharing," The Fullwood Annual Recognition and Benefit Breakfast, held each January, has become the largest, most spectacular fund-raising event of its kind in the State of Maryland. A key tradition of the Fullwood Breakfast has involved the public honoring of individuals whose humanitarian deeds substantially improve the quality of life of the citizens of the State of Maryland. Through the years, Harlow Fullwood, Jr. gained recognition as one of the nation's most generous and innovative philanthropists. Through his Foundation, Mr. Fullwood generated and awarded more than \$6 million in college scholarships to support more than 1,000 students; more than 750 Fullwood Scholars have graduated from college. Additionally, the Fullwood Foundation has awarded several hundred thousand dollars to more than 100 non-profit organizations including Associated Black Charities, Special Olympics of Maryland, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Rotary International, United Negro College Fund, Aunt Hattie's Place, The Baltimore Academy of Excellence, United Way of Central Maryland, The Links, People Encouraging People, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Maryland, and the American Lung Association, to name a few. Mr. Fullwood has provided significant support to many higher education institutions including Coppin State College, Morgan State University, Virginia Union University, and Baltimore City Community College, his alma mater, where he established its first endowment. Fullwood was a charter member of the Baltimore Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Men, and a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He was

inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame and received its prestigious 2001 GERI Award for humanitarianism. In recognition of his various careers as a Baltimore Police Officer, KFC entrepreneur, and philanthropist, Great Black in Wax Museum has included a wax figure in his likeness as part of its permanent, nationally acclaimed, exhibit collection. Some of Mr. Fullwood's more than 500 awards for excellence in business and community service include the 1998 Outstanding Volunteer Fund Raiser Award by the Baltimore Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, becoming the first African-American to be so honored; the Baltimore City Community College 1998 Life-time Business Achievement Award; the Governor's Recognition Award to Fullwood Foods, Inc. by the Maryland Department of Economic Development as one of five leading Small Minority Businesses in Maryland; Entrepreneur of the Year by Baltimore Magazine; 1995 Entrepreneur of the Year by the Baltimore Business Journal; VUU Alumni Association Alumnus of the Year; Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Central Maryland Distinguished Service Award; National Blue Chip Enterprise Award from Nation's Business magazine; the Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity Leadership Award; the Henry G. Parks Business Award; Phi Delta Kappa Excellence In Education Award; Morgan State University's Howard L. Cornish Drum Major Award, 2001; Anheuser-Busch Companies Outstanding Achievement Award; Institute for American Business Community Service Award; named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary International Foundation; was presented with the Jimmy Swartz Medallion Award by the late Governor of Maryland J. Millard Tawes; the 2001 CITE Odyssey Scholarship Award by the Consortium of Information & Telecommunications Executives; and the 2001 Excellence for Minority Achievement "Vanguard Award" by the Maryland Department of Education. Fullwood, Jr. provided a unique profile of dedication, integrity, charitable giving, and human kindness, and he has left a rich legacy of business and community-wide achievements. His autobiography, "Love Lifted Me – A Life's Journey" published in 2001, is a compelling story of his humble beginnings and how he attained success

through the love he received from his grandmother, teachers, coaches, his wife Elnora Bassett Fullwood, and many others. Mr. Fullwood is survived by his devoted wife Elnora Bassett Fullwood; a daughter Paquita Fullwood-Stokes, a son, Harlow Fullwood III; a son-in-law, Robert Stokes, a brother Everett Fullwood; two sisters, Joan Johnson, Joyce Hatcher, three grandchildren; Robert Harwill Stokes, Harlow Fullwood IV and Kennedy Fullwood; brothers-and sister-in-law, nieces, nephews, Goddaughter Karen Berkeley, Godson Aaron Moore and a host of family and friends too numerous to mention.

Tribute Wall



“ *Harlow Fullwood*

March 25, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Harlow Fullwood*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *My prayers are with you during your time of bereavement. Sincerely,
Joan Dixon & Family##imported-begin##Joan Dixon##imported-
end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *To the Fullwood Family, May you find strength at this time in
knowing that Mr. Harlow touched so many lives in a positive way,
and I am one of those whom he touched. I will miss Mr. Harlow, but
I will carry his memory close to my heart. Love, Nicole##imported-
begin##Nicole Beverly##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Dear Family and Friends: My deepest sympathy. God has called a favored son and it is our great loss. But his legacy remains as a great testimony of his love, care and witness to God whom he loved and daily served. What a witness! Please know that our warm love and great appreciation for his witness is here for each of you, feel my embrace. For surely, Harlow Fullwood, Jr. goes to prepare a place for the faithful like himself. God is still with us, in spite of our grief and pain. This was a great life well lived! Thank you, God. Thank you, Harlow. May you rest in the peace of God that passes all understanding and may we honor you by emulating your witness. We love you, my Brother, but God loves you best.##imported-begin##(Reverend Ms.)Mamie A. Williams##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ "And when Mr. Fullwood's journey takes him to the end of the road of life, beyond times hidden bend, we hope our fellow travelers can say with truthful hearts a good man passed this way." This message comes to offer sympathy for the loss of your loved one and to tell you that he will be remembered by many with respect and admiration. May it bring some comfort to know that others truly care and share your grief with you.##imported-begin##Poinsetta W. McKnight & Family##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ All of the members of The Presidents' RoundTable past and present extend our prayers to Elnora and family. The business community will miss him and the integrity he brought to every interaction. The people who knew him personally will miss his big heart and bigger spirit.##imported-begin##Brenda Goburn Smith##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Thank you for all you have done for soooo many! My neice benefitted from your kindness. You've absolutely earned your wings. We need so many more like you. God bless you and the entire Fullwood Family. RIP.##imported-begin##Michele##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ You are in our hearts and forever in our prayers.We send condolences from the Lewis ,Jackson and McNeil Family.##imported-begin##Denise McNeil ,Carl Jackson##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To the family: My deepest condolences are extended to you at this time. There are no words that can lessen your pain at this time but know how much we will all miss him this "giant" of a man. Harlow did so much in his lifetime, gave so much and did a host of good which the public knows about. Yet I also remember his acts of kindness and outreach where there was no "public audience". I will remember him and miss him for so many reasons but I will always remember and value his reaching out to my grandson, many years ago. He sent him a note of encouragement about how important education was and told him he could be successful and do better in school. He had never met him but heard me talk about him and our concerns for his future. It made an impression on Jamie, that this "important man" took time to write him a note. This was just one of his many acts of unselfish caring. He truly walked the talk - I pray that we will honor his legacy by increasing the number of people who reach out and give back - to "walk the talk" of caring and making a difference. My prayers are wrapped around you at this time.##imported-begin##Diane Bell McKoy##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To the family, Please accept my sincere sympathy. I remember Mr. Fullwood and the family from the days at Concord Baptist Church years ago. I know the sorrow we feel when we loose someone we love can seem to go on forever. It may seem like there is no source of relief. Be assured that there is one that will provide us with relief, "the Father of tender mercies and the God of all comfort". (2 Corinthians 1:3,4). We only have to ask. He promises us that there will soon be an end to death, (Rev 21:3,4) and a resurrection for those those who have fallen asleep in death (John 5:28,29). These promises were made by the "God who cannot lie." Titus 1:2. I would love to discuss these and other wonderful provisions with you. Please contact me.##imported-begin##Gwen (Chestnut) Winston##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Harlow was a 'big man' - not just in stature but within his heart. He loved people and did a lot to enhance the plight of others.Meeting him with the Mt. Vernon Optimist Club years ago, I could tell he was a man on the move and that he did - carrying others with him. Our city, state, and country could benefit from 'clones' of him.##imported-begin##Charles 'Rudy ' Faison##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My sympathy goes to Elnora and family in the loss of such a great man. May you always have beautiful memories of such a wonderful life and always give thanks to God for all of your blessings.##imported-begin##Loretta Poole Hill##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Harlow will be missed by both family and friends. However, his legacy of "caring and sharing" for his fellowman will continue to live through them. God bless you, Elnora and keep you strong in the days to come.##imported-begin##Elaine Whitehurst Clinton##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Our sincerest sympathy on your great loss. We stopped By the funeral home unfortunately we missed you. much Love to You, JR, and the whole family. hope to see you soon##imported-begin##Richard&Darlene##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I am very sorry to learn about the death of Harlow. This must have been a difficult time for all of you. I'm forwarding scripture that will comfort you. Psalms 90:10 says that the usual human life span is 70 or 80 years. This was true when Moses wrote it but not so from the beginning. (compare Genesis 5:3-32.) Hebrews 9:27 says..It is reserved for men to die once for all time. This, too, was true when it was written but not the case before God passed judgement on sinful Adam.##imported-begin##JT Nunnally##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ May I send my condolences to you all. Losing a very dear one like Mr. Harlow breaks the circle of life . It has a year since Mr. Harlow died. Time help to heal sorrow and pain some but the comfort we get from our heavenly father goes a LONG WAY. Imagine the happiness to enjoyed when the dead are resurrected back to life on a paradise earth, never to die again as the bible say, Rev.21:3-5, " All things will be made NEW". There were many things that Mr. Harlow accomplished in his life . May all the precious and cherish times shared with Mr. Harlow support you all in life journey.##imported-begin##Lillian Crosby##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To the Fullwood family, please accept my sincere condolences. I didn't know Mr. Harlow personally, but I know he was a very, loving. caring person who wanted to do so much to help others. But sadly, death can overtake us at any time. It's so unfair that those we love have to leave us, and it was never God's purpose for this to happen to us. One day, according to Isaaiah 25:8, Jehovah will swallow up death forever, and certainly wipe the tears from all faces." One day, the bible promises that the dead will rise again. At John 5:28,29 Jesus tells us, "Donot marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out." So all in God's memory will awaken from the sleep of death. Family, rejoice in the hope, because all God promises will come true. He has never failed to fullfill his promises in the past, because he is a God of truth. Isaiah 55:11 tells us that his word will not return to him without results, but will have certain success for which he has sent it." I pray these scriptures give you some solace, and may your cherished memories help you to go on.##imported-begin##R Johnson##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Mr. Fullwood is truly an example of a life well lived. He made a difference in this world and has left us a tremendous legacy. "Well done good and faithful servant..."##imported-begin##Michael Newsome & Family##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. I too have lost loved ones in death. Even though we know that death is inevitable, it is still difficult to accept. Death was not something that God intended for us. The thought of death is always distasteful and it always will be because Jehovah God has created within us the keen desire to live forever. We never get used to it. We feel deep down in our hearts that this should not happen because, “Even time indefinite he (God) has put in their heart,” says Ecclesiastes 3:11. One of the wonderful parts of his plan is the hope of the resurrection of dead loved ones. (John 5:25, 28, 29). Please be assured that Jehovah God loves us and wants the best for us. Take comfort in the promise that he has given us at Rev. 21: 3-5 of a new earth where there will be no more death.##imported-begin##Senita Swann##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Mrs. Fullwood, Paquita and Harlow, III, my thoughts, and prayers are with you and your family. Mr. Fullwood's commitment to helping students achieve their greatest goals is what has propelled me into my present and what will continue to hold me into the future. I do thank God for allowing Mr. Fullwood to touch all those that he has in such a positive and unselfish light. God bless you and peace be unto you.##imported-begin##Valerie Green##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. God Bless.
Erin Divers##imported-begin##Erin Divers##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Mr. Kevin and Mrs. Sharon and Karen Powdrill would like to extend
our deapest smypathy to the family of Harlow Fullwood. Our prayers
are with you and if there is anything that we can do please do not
hesitate to contact us. Sincerely, The Powdrill Family##imported-
begin##Powdrill Family##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ The City of Baltimore has lost a great leader. Thank you so much
for the legacy left for us to follow. I am a Fullwood with two LL's that
was changed by an aunt when my Dad's family moved to Baltimore.
I have always admired and been proud when asked is there a
relation to Mr. Harlow Fullwood and his family. I too lost my Dad, Mr.
Edward Fulwood who was a dedicated family man that could stand
with the best of fathers to teach young men today what being a
father is all about. Time will heal all wounds. God Bless and much
love to the family.##imported-begin##Sylvia Fulwood-
Paylor##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I used to drive Virginia Union Student for Mr.Fullwood. We had alot
of fun in our travels. I will truely miss him. May God bless you all
and continue to live his legacy. David Marc. Campbell##imported-
begin##David Marc. Campbell##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *Many prayers and thoughts go out to your whole family. Hold on tightly to each other always! I am so blessed to have met Mr. Fullwood and will always remember his most generous heart! My heart and my tears are with you.##imported-begin##Lakisha Taylor-Conaway##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM